

*In Partial Support of HB545
Lindsey Beck*

Good afternoon ladies and gentleman. My name is Lindsey Beck and I am a lifelong resident of CT. I have now been here and fought on three occasions for my right to lead a qualitative and productive life. Because I still battle medically every day in small ways, I am held at a fixed income of \$652 a month for my son and myself. If I were to purchase my medicine through a dispensary, it would cost me upwards of \$500 per month. I have in no way benefitted from the medical program I fought so hard and risked so much for. I know patients across the state with the same problem. I did not join this battle to ensure the wealthy their rights, and deny my own. The bill was a disgrace, and I always knew it, but it was a step towards a brighter future. You must amend for home-grow, pediatrics, and compassion programs, or patients will continue to suffer or be viewed as criminals.

You may wonder how I spend my days now, as the degenerate citizen you have forced me to become. I can tell you it is no longer days spent in bed, writhing in pain, passing out from the medication, wishing for The End. No, that is no longer the life that I choose to lead. Instead, I spend my days volunteering my knowledge to other patients in need. I connect them with resources that will help them pay these outrageous fees. I connect them with communities in other states who gift medicine to patients (always with real warnings that this is illegal by CT's current regulations; do you not want to see your constituents thrive). I teach them safe extraction methods, so those who cannot benefit from any resources can still heal themselves and save their own life. I teach them proper dosing and how to comfortably build a tolerance. I do this because it must be done, and if you do not stand to do it, than I shall not stay seated.

When will you realize that in order to lead, you must follow? You must follow your voters through their own tribulations. Our pain must be your pain! Our struggle must be your struggle! Our needs must be your needs! This is the job you signed up for, no one forced you to be in those chairs today. But because you do occupy them, you must listen with true intent; an intent focused on hearing what is being said and an intent to act accordingly.

So hear me today, when I say Thank You. Thank you for keeping me a criminal. Thank you for denying me affordable access to a medicine I desperately need to thrive. Thank you for making my dreams of furthering my education impossible, as I cannot medicate on campus properties. Thank you for blocking my ambitions to work, as I am not eligible for immunity if I cannot afford my card. Thank you for keeping my son and me constantly afraid that DCF will be at our door. Thank you for lacking the grace and decency to stand against the opposition and declare, "I will not deny my constituents their health; their life; their right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness!" Thank you for showing me that this system is further flawed than I could have ever imagined.

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